GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:872
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2008
LAUNCHING OF BHOJPURI CHANNEL
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch a Bhojpuri channel for the Bhojpuri speaking people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether any proposal for launching the private Bhojpuri channel is still pending with the Government.

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by when this proposal is likely to be cleared?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. The Government has no proposal to launch the Bhojpuri channel for the Bhojpuri speaking people.

(c) to (e): Yes, Sir. The Government has already permitted two TV channels, namely, "Focus TV" and "Mahuaa" to uplink from India and downlink in India with Bhojpuri language. The proposals of five TV channels with Bhojpuri language, namely, "Hum Bhojpuriya", "Ganga", "Pehali Khabar", "Mahuaa Geet", and "Hamar TV" have been received in the Ministry. One more proposal, namely, "Sangeet Bhojpuri" channel has also been received having no specific Bhojpuri language. The proposals require consultations from other Ministries/Departments in the matter as per uplinking/downlinking guidelines and therefore, no definite time-frame can be given.